

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8730

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAVIAN RECRUITMENT ATTEMPT

REF: BELGRADE 6165 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY. SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS THAT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT ATTEMPTED, THROUGH PROMISES OF MONEY AND ASSISTANCE, TO RECRUIT CROATIAN TO INFORM ON FELLOW EMIGRES IN SWEDEN. CROATIAN PRETENDED TO COOPERATE, BUT MADE TAPES OF CONVERSATIONS WHICH HE TURNED OVER TO SAPO, THE SWEDISH SECURITY POLICE. COOPERATION WAS TERMINATED WHEN CROATIAN SUSPECTED THAT YUGOSLAVS PLANNED TO KIDNAP OR MURDER TWO FRIENDS. SAPO CONFIRMS THAT IT HAS RECEIVED THE TAPES, AND THE YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT, AS YET UNIDENTIFIED, IS "ON VACATION" IN YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.

2. BRANKO GLAVAK, A CROATIAN RECENTLY EMIGRATED TO
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SWEDEN, SAYS HE WAS RECRUITED BY A YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT

TO INFORM ON THE CROATIAN COMMUNITY AND TWO FRIENDS, MARKO STIPIC AND IVO VRANJES, WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS "DANGEROUS PERSONS" BY YUGOSLAV EMBASSY OFFICIAL. GLAVAK, WHO SAYS HE HAS SPENT TWO AND A HALF YEARS IN YUGOSLAV PRISONS, CAME TO SWEDEN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. HE WENT TO YUGOSLAV EMBASSY TO REQUEST NEW PASSPORT, AND WAS QUESTIONED BY DIPLOMAT WHO ULTIMATELY WARNED HIM AGAINST HIS FRIENDS (STIPIC AND VRANJES) AND ASKED HIM TO HELP PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEM.

3. GLAVAK SAYS HE TOLD STIPIC AND VRANJES ABOUT THE APPROACH, AND THEY DECIDED TO PLAY ALONG. THE DIPLOMAT, HE SAYS, OFFERED HIM MONEY AND ASSISTANCE WITH OBTAINING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN SWEDEN IN RETURN FOR INTELLIGENCE ON THE CROATIAN COMMUNITY. FINALLY, GLAVAK WAS INSTRUCTED TO PERSUADE STIPIC AND VRANJES TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO FRANKFURT BY CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER.

4. AT THAT POINT, GLAVAK SAYS, THE THREE CROATIANS BECAME SCARED AND DECIDED TO PLANT A SMALL TAPE RECORDER ON GLAVAK TO RECORD FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DIPLOMAT. THE RESULTING TAPE WAS TURNED OVER TO SAPO AFTER A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 7.

5. ON SEPTEMBER 9, GLAVAK AND HIS TAPE RECORDER WERE TO HAVE A FINAL MEETING WITH THE DIPLOMAT BEFORE THE TRIP TO GERMANY. WHILE WAITING IN A CAFE, GLAVAK NOTICED A MAN HE HAD SEEN WATCHING HIS APARTMENT THE PREVIOUS DAY, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER "SUSPICIOUS" PEOPLE. WHEN THE DIPLOMAT FAILED TO SHOW ON TIME, GLAVAK BECAME SCARED AND CALLED THE POLICE, WHO CAME AND TOOK HIM AWAY WITHOUT INCIDENT.

6. CROATIANS CLAIM TO PRESS THAT MANY EMIGRES HAVE DISAPPEARED, AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN MURDERED. THE THREE EMPHASIZE THAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN CONNECTED WITH USTASHI, THE CROATIAN EXTREMIST MOVEMENT. THEY BELIEVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY WERE BEING LURED TO GERMANY SO THAT THEY COULD BE KIDNAPPED OR MURDERED, WITH VRANJES CLAIMING IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT "A NUMBER OF CROATIANS HAVE BEEN MURDERED OR HAVE DISAPPEARED UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WEST GERMANY."

7. SAPO OFFICIAL CONFIRMS RECEIPT OF GLAVAK'S TAPES, BUT DECLINES TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS "FOR REASONS OF SECRECY." WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CROATIANS' CREDIBILITY, OFFICIAL

REPLIED THAT CONCERNING GLAVAK'S DECLARATIONS TO PRESS, "WE HAVE HAD NO REASON EARLIER TO DOUBT HIS STATEMENTS."

8. YUGOSLAV CHARGE OSTOJA TISMA REPLIED TO ACCUSATIONS THAT HE DOUBTED SWEDISH AUTHORITIES BELIEVED IN THIS, AND ADDED, "I THINK THAT HIS ACCUSATION IS A PURE INVENTION OR A PROVOCATION."
END UNCLASSIFIED.

9. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: FOR SEVERAL YEARS SWEDEN HAS BEEN A YUGOSLAV/CROATIAN BATTLE-GROUND, GOING BACK AT LEAST TO THE MURDER OF THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IN 1972 AND SUBSEQUENT MYSTERIOUS DEATHS OF CROATIANS, INCLUDING ASSASSINATION OF CROATIAN LEADER LAST YEAR. GLAVAK'S STORY IS CREDIBLE, GIVEN YUGOSLAV'S CONCERN ABOUT THE CROATIAN MOVEMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES ONE OF THE PRIMARY TASKS OF YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HERE IS TO MONITOR AND INFILTRATE THE EMIGRE COMMUNITY.
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